

Response to Office Action dated 4/27/2005

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A container closure comprising:

a shell having a body attachable to a container around a container opening thereof, said shell having a shell opening in fluid communication with the container opening when said shell is attached to the container, wherein said shell includes a central stem, said shell opening is an annular opening surrounding said stem, an annular wall extending from said body and surrounding said annular opening, said stem attached to said annular wall;

a tip received on said shell movable between an open position and a closed position sealing said shell opening; and

a cover releasably attached to said shell, said cover including internally extending ribs engagable with said tip when said cover is attached to said shell, the cover having a top and an annular side wall, each said rib extending in a radial direction along said top of the cover and extending along the side wall of the cover.

2. (Currently Amended) The container closure of claim 1 wherein said shell further includes a cover-attaching member positioned on said stem, wherein said cover attaching member of said shell engages a shell engaging member of said cover to releasably attach said cover to said shell, and each rib extends from the shell engaging member of the cover along the top of the cover.

3. (Currently Amended) The container closure of claim 2 wherein said cover-attaching member is formed by a groove on said stem, said groove engaging said cover to releasably attach said cover to said shell, wherein the cover attaching member is above

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the tip when the cover-attaching member engages the shell engaging member of the cover.

4. (Currently Amended) The container closure of claim 3 wherein at least four of said ribs are radially positioned around an interior of said cover, and the tip has inner and outer sleeves engaging the shell.

5. (Currently Amended) The container closure of claim 1 wherein at least four of said ribs are radially positioned around an interior of said cover, and the tip has inner and outer sleeves engaging the shell.

6. (Currently Amended) The container closure of claim 1 wherein said cover includes a tamper-evident band removably attached to said cover at a lower end of the side wall below a tapered end of each rib.

7. (Currently Amended) The container closure of claim 6 wherein said ~~cover further includes a top, a cylindrical side wall extending from said top, wherein said tamper-evident band is formed by a lower portion of said cylindrical side wall and~~ includes at least one projection extending radially inwardly of said side wall, and the tip has inner and outer sleeves engaging the shell.

8. (Currently Amended) A dust cover for a container closure having a shell attachable to a container around a container opening thereof and a tip received on said shell movable repeatedly between a closed positioned sealing and resealing said shell opening and an open position allowing fluid to flow through said opening, said dust cover comprising:

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a top,

a cylindrical side wall extending from said top,

a shell engaging member for releasably attaching said cover to the shell extending from said top, and

a plurality of tip engaging ribs extending inwardly from said top and sidewall ~~sidewalls~~ for engaging with the tip when said cover is attached to the shell, said tip engaging ribs extending in a radial direction away from said shell engaging member.

9. (Currently Amended) The dust cover of claim 8 wherein each said rib is attached to said top, and at least four of said ribs are provided, and the tip has inner and outer sleeves engaging the shell.

10. (Currently Amended) The dust cover of claim 8 wherein each said rib has a curved inner face adapted to engage the tip.

11. (Currently Amended) The dust cover of claim 10 wherein each said rib has a beveled lower edge adapted to center the dust cover during placement by the user.

12. (Currently Amended) The dust cover of claim 8 wherein at least four of said ribs are provided and each said rib extends from a position on said top adjacent said shell engaging member.

13. (Currently Amended) The container closure of claim 1 wherein at least four of said ribs are provided and each said rib is attached to the a top and side of said cover, and the tip has inner and outer sleeves engaging the shell.

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14. (Currently Amended) The container closure of claim 1 wherein each said rib has a curved inner face adapted to engage the tip, and the tip has inner and outer sleeves engaging the shell.

15. (Currently Amended) The container closure of claim 14 wherein each said rib has a beveled lower edge adapted to center the dust cover during placement by the user.

16. (Currently Amended) The container closure of claim 1 wherein each said rib extends from a position on a top of said cover which is adjacent a cover-attaching member to a position along the side above a tamper evident band, and the tip has inner and outer sleeves engaging the shell.

17. (Currently Amended) A container closure comprising:

a shell having a body attachable to a container around a container opening thereof, said shell having a shell opening in fluid communication with the container opening when said shell is attached to the container, wherein said shell includes a central stem, said shell opening is an annular opening surrounding said stem, an annular wall extending from said body and surrounding said annular opening, said stem attached to said annular wall;

a tip received on said shell movable between an open position and a closed position sealing said shell opening; and

a cover having a shell engaging ~~cover attaching~~ member on a top of the cover for releasably attaching said cover to said shell, said cover including internally radial extending ribs extending away from the stem engaging member and engagable with said tip when said cover is attached to said shell, whereby said ribs maintain proper alignment

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between said cover, said tip and said shell when said cover is attached to said shell preventing said closure from leaking in the closed position.

18. (Currently Amended) The container closure of claim 17 wherein the shell has a cover attaching member and said cover attaching member is formed by a groove on said stem, said groove engaging said cover to releasably attach said cover to said shell.

19. (Currently Amended) The container closure of claim 18 wherein at least four said ribs are provided and said ribs are radially positioned around an interior of said cover, and said tip includes an inner and outer sleeve engaging the shell.

20. (Currently Amended) The container closure of claim 19 wherein said cover includes a tamper-evident band removably attached to said cover, at a position below the ribs.